

REMARKS

Applicants are filing a Supplemental Amendment in Reply to the final Office Action of October 9, 2007 to supplement applicants' February 11, 2008 Amendment in Reply to the final Office Action of October 9, 2007. Applicants have added new claims 40- 44 by way of this Supplemental Amendment. Therefore, claims 1-4, 6-14, 19-33, and 35-44 are now pending, of which claims 1, 29, 30, and 40 are independent.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 6-12, 21-33, and 35-39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,247,043 (Bates) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,835,089 (Skarbo), and dependent claims 13, 14, 19, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over various combinations of Bates, Skarbo, U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0003071 (Mathew), and U.S. Patent No. 6,678,719 (Stimmel). As set forth in applicants' February 11, 2008 Amendment, applicants have amended independent claims 1, 29, and 30 and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-14, 19-33, and 35-39 because Bates, Skarbo, Mathew, and Stimmel do not anticipate or render obvious amended independent claims 1, 29, and 30 or their dependent claims, claims 2-4, 6-14, 19-29, 32, 33, and 35-39.

New Claims

New independent claim 40 recites a method for enabling communications to be sent to multiple contacts that includes, among other features, enabling a user to specify an alias associated with a subset of contacts as a destination address for electronic communications that are to be sent to the subset of contacts using any of at least two different communication modalities, processing a first communication that specifies the alias as a destination address and that is to be sent using a first one of the at least two different communication modalities by, for at least a first contact within the subset of contacts, sending the first communication to the first contact using the first communication modality, and processing a second communication that specifies the alias as a destination address and that is to be sent using a second one of the at least

two different communication modalities by, for at least a second contact within the subset of contacts, sending the second communication to the second contact using the second communication modality.

For reasons that are analogous to those articulated in connection with independent claims 1, 29, and 30 in applicant's February 9, 2008 Amendment, applicants submit that none of Bates, Skarbo, Mathew, Stimmel, or any proper combination thereof describes or suggests enabling a user to specify an alias associated with a subset of contacts as a destination address for electronic communications that are to be sent to the subset of contacts using any of at least two different communication modalities, as recited in new independent claim 40. Accordingly, applicants submit that new independent claim and its dependent claims, claim 41-44, are allowable over the references of record, namely Bates, Skarbo, Mathew, and Stimmel.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

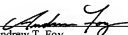
The fee in the amount of \$460 in payment of the Excess Claims Fee is being paid on the Electronic Filing System by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

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Page : 21 of 21

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Respectfully submitted,

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